

**Amendments to the Abstract:**

**Please rewrite the Abstract as follows:**

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

A mesoporous silica ~~has is~~ provided, having uniform mesopores and a periodic structure, which contains a Zr element in the form of a Si-O-Zr bond. The Zr content in the Si-O-Zr bond, represented by  $[Zr/(Si + Zr)]$ , is 0.05 to 20 mole %. The mesoporous silica is superior in ~~alkali~~ alkaline resistance and is suitably used as a separation membrane (e.g. a ceramic membrane) and a catalytic support for a solid-liquid system, in which an alkaline liquid may be used.